GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1050
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST VILLAGES
Gamang Shri Giridhar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) total number of forest villages in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Planning Commission has allocated funds for development of forest villages during the financial year 2005-06;

(c) if so, the proposals received so far from the States and schemes and projects approved and funds provided therefor, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the rights of tribals in forests and forest villages?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) As per information received from State Governments, total number of forest villages in the country is 2690. State-wise detail of forest villages is given in the Annexure.

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 230 Crores has been allocated by Planning Commission during the year 2005-06 to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Proposals for development of forest villages have been received from Assam, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. The proposals will be approved and funds released subject to their suitability and availability of adequate funds during the year.

(d) National Forest Policy, 1988 safeguards the customary rights and interests of tribal people living on forest lands. The policy also envisages the development of forest villages at par with revenue villages. Accordingly, the Central Government had issued guidelines on 18-09-1990 under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages, and for settlement of disputed claims, patta, lease, etc. of the forest dwellers including tribals on the forest lands, and requested State Governments/Union Territories to submit proposals under the Act. Also, to safeguard the rights of forest dwellers including tribals on forest lands, Central Government has issued directions to the States/UTs on 21-12-2004 not to evict such dwellers till the process of verification and recognition of their traditional rights on forest lands is completed.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1050 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2005.

STATE-WISE NUMBER OF FOREST VILLAGES IN THE COUNTRY

(Up-dated as on 30-06-2005)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Number of Forest Villages
1	Andhra Pradesh	-
2	Assam	499
3	Arunachal Pradesh	-
4	A & N Island	-
5	Bihar	0
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	421
8	Delhi	-
9	Daman & Diu	0
10	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	-
11	Gujarat	194
12	Goa	-
13	Haryana	0
14	Himachal Pradesh	0

15 J & K -
16 Jharkhand 24
17 Karnataka -
18 Kerala -
19 Lakshdweep 0
20 Maharashtra 73
21 Manipur -
22 Meghalaya 22
23 Madhya Pradesh 925
24 Mizoram 85
25 Nagaland -
26 Orissa 20
27 Punjab 0
28 Pondicherry -
29 Rajasthan 0
30 Sikkim -
31 Tamilnadu 0
32 Tripura 96
33 Uttaranchal 142
34 Uttar Pradesh 19
35 West Bengal 170
Total 2690